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4 April 1969

Examples of Questions That Could Be
Asked of the DCI

1. Secretary Laird said on 21 March that the USSR is building "at a rapid rate" the kind of weapons that can erode our deterrent. You have said that deployment programs for the SS-9 and SS-11 appeared to be slowing down. What's the situation?
2. You told us that the Soviets will not be able to match our Polaris fleet before the mid-1970s. Secretary Laird said they could build these nuclear subs at a rate of one a month. How fast are the Soviets building these submarines?
3. Secretary Laird said the Soviets were "working hard" on a FOBS to hit US bomber bases. You told us they have been "flight testing" a FOBS or DICBM. Just how hard are the Soviets working and have they begun to deploy a FOBS or a DICBM?

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4. Secretary Laird said our Polaris deterrent might be threatened in the mid-1970s. What is the Soviet capability to neutralize or destroy the Polaris and Poseidon force?
5. Are the Soviets going to put multiple warheads on their submarine-launched ballistic missiles?
6. Do most Soviet ICBMs have larger warheads than US ICBMs, as Secretary Laird stated?
7. Secretary Laird said the Soviets were making budget increases for military weapons, but you told us competition for resources was likely to intensify. How much can they really afford to do?
8. What are the capabilities of the Soviet missiles--in particular the SS-9s--for disabling our strategic rocket force in a first strike? What about MRV (or MIRVs)? What about FOBS? And how do FOBS relate to MOBS?
9. Have the Soviets stopped deployment of their ABM system or haven't they? Is it useless against our various kinds of sophisticated ICBM penetration methods?

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10. Secretary Laird said the evidence strongly indicates the Soviets are trying to erode our deterrent, but you spoke only of "assured-destruction" and capabilities for "limiting damage"? Just what is their strategic goal?
11. What new evidence is there that indicates the Soviets are now seeking a first strike force? When could they achieve such a force?

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